

NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 13, 2010 - 1:30pm-4:30pm
Courtyard Marriott, 3870 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Commissioners Present:

Theodore Quasula, Chairman (Teleconference)
Sharon Frederick, Commissioner
William Oliver, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Chris Gibbons, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Rupert Burt Powers, Washoe Tribal Member
Joe Bryan, Washoe Tribal Member
Pam Abercrombie, Education Director, Yerington Paiute Tribe
Fredina Drye-Romero, Indian Education Consultant, Nevada Department of Education

I. Convene Meeting & Roll Call

Chairman Quasula convened the meeting at 1:40 p.m. and asked Sherry to take roll. Three Commissioners were present, establishing a quorum.

II. Invocation

Chairman Quasula provided the invocation.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Quasula asked all those present to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2010

Commissioner Frederick motioned to approve the February 25, 2010 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. The motion passed with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (2 absent).

V. Commissioner Reports

Chairman Quasula apologized for not being able to attend in person.

Commissioner Frederick mentioned that she and Sherry attended the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) Convocation Ceremony and the American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit. She also mentioned the most recent Nevada Arts Council (NAC) newsletter. The newsletter had an article about this year's NAC Heritage Award winner, Ralph Burns (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Member). The newsletter also reported that the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) received an award from the NAC in the amount of \$3,204 for the 2011 Stewart Father's Day Powwow.

Chairman Quasula reported that President Obama recently signed the Tribal Law and Order Act. He said that he had testified before Congress on the subject. He mentioned that the federal government can authorize the language to their hearts content, but the downside is when they don't appropriate the money.

Sherry explained that the content of the Tribal Law and Order Act was presented by Sue Fahami of the US Attorney's Office and Vito de la Cruz, Federal Public Defender, the day before at the Governors' Interstate Indian Council Conference.

VI. Executive Director Report – Sherry L. Rupert

A. Update on the Nevada Indian Commission Budget Preparation for FY 2012 and FY 2013, Staff Furloughs and Review of Budget Status Report (for Current Funding Year)

Sherry explained that the state is in the process of building the budget for the next biennium. She further explained that with additional budget reductions, the only place left to take from in the \$164,000 budget was from salaries. Therefore, the budget reductions would reduce both NIC positions to .84 employees (part-time employees). The NIC has been receiving funding from the Casey Family, but the state has not yet received a funding agreement from the Casey Family and cannot include these funds in our budget until received. There is a verbal confirmation that the state will continue to receive these funds, even at a higher level than last year, but again nothing in writing yet. Sherry also mentioned that the Governors' Interstate Indian Council approved funding be granted to the NIC to perform certain duties agreed upon in a scope of work. This funding will fill the current deficit in FY 2011. The Indian Territory also provides a small amount of funding to the NIC for administrative support of the Territory. Sherry asked the Commissioners if they had any other ideas for funding.

Commissioner Frederick inquired how benefits would be affected by going part-time. Sherry was unsure at the time, but explained that the budget will change several times before it is final. This is the first version, then the new Governor will submit his budget to the Legislature and then the Legislature will change the budgets again. It is also unknown whether the mandatory furloughs will continue, increase or be dissolved.

Chairman Quasula wanted to know the reaction to 2 part-time positions as opposed to 1 full-time position. Sherry reported that originally her position would go part-time and the Administrative Assistant would remain full-time. But, it was thought that it would not be acceptable for the Executive Director position to be reduced to a .69 employee since the Executive Director generates the work for the Administrative Assistant position and sits on several committees and boards that give her the voting authority. It was more acceptable to have both positions go part-time.

Chairman Quasula questioned whether retirement for the 2 positions would be impacted. Sherry stated that retirement contributions would be affected if the positions were to be reduced.

Sherry noted that there was an option to appeal to the Governor's Office for a waiver from the budget reductions, possibly citing the uniqueness of the agency and that grant awards received far exceed general fund appropriation.

Commissioner Frederick motioned that the NIC write a letter to the Governor's Office requesting a waiver from the proposed budget reductions, noting that the NIC is a unique agency and that grant awards to the Nevada Indian Commission far exceed general fund appropriation, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. The motion passed with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (2 absent).

Commissioner Oliver also suggested having tribes write letters to the Governor and to the Legislators in support of the Nevada Indian Commission.

Sherry directed the Commissioners to the handouts provided in their packets and noted that a listing of staff furloughs through the end of the calendar year was provided for their information.

Sherry provided a brief overview of the balances in the Commission's budget and gift accounts.

B. Review Listing of FY 2010 Grant Funding Awarded to the Nevada Indian Commission

Sherry provided a brief overview of grant funding received by the NIC in FY 2010 and grant funding already awarded for FY 2011.

C. Summary of the 2010 Governors' Interstate Indian Council (GIIC) General Assembly, Carson City, NV – August 12-13, 2010

Sherry reported that the GIIC conference was held at the Courtyard Marriot Carson City the day before and earlier this day. There were delegates from 13 states present including Hawaii, Alaska, Wyoming, Alabama, Georgia, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Minnesota, Illinois and Nevada. There were more delegates than expected considering the economic climate. The meeting was very productive and more like a business meeting than a full conference. This format was by design to cut costs and make it affordable for states to attend. The GIIC opted to waive the registration for this meeting and paid for meals of all attendees. Chairman Walker came in and provided information on the Carcieri decision and fix and the US Attorney's Office provided information on the new Tribal Law and Order Act. The Council also passed 2 resolutions supporting recognition of the Native Hawaiians and Utah's diabetes initiative. The resolutions will be signed and forwarded out to all of the states and posted to our website on the GIIC page.

D. Report on Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference, Reno, NV – April 22-23, 2010

Sherry reported that the tourism conference was a great success and they were very fortunate to have some very dynamic speakers on the first day and a familiarization tour of Pyramid Lake on the second day. Mr. Dann Lewis, Director, Nevada Commission on Tourism was in attendance for both days. Based on evaluations, the attendees want to know more. Planning for the 2011 Tribal Tourism Conference has already commenced. The 2011 Conference will take place in Las Vegas, April 20-21, 2011.

E. Sherry reported that she participated in the following:

1. Governor's Broadband Task Force Meeting, Reno, NV – March 4, 2010, April 27, 2010, May 6, 2010 and June 3, 2010
2. Indian Health Board of Nevada Meeting, Reno, NV – March 4, 2010 and June 3, 2010
3. Nevada Indian Education Summit, Reno, NV – March 22-23, 2010
4. Rural Roundup, Winnemucca, NV – March 24-26, 2010
5. Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Meeting, Reno, NV – April 1, 2010
6. Tribal-State-Federal Executive Leaders Forum, Carson City, NV – April 14-15, 2010

This Forum was coordinated by the EPA Tribal/State Liaison, Tansey Smith and the NIC provided the minutes (20 pages) for the 2-day Forum.

F. The following upcoming meetings/conferences/events were shared with the Board:

1. Nevada Territory Wild West Fair, Reno, NV – August 25-29, 2010

Sherry pointed out that this project is a collaborative effort between the NIC, the Indian Territory, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and the Wild West Fair. Sherry explained that the State Fair theme has changed to the "Wild West" theme and the Coordinator really wanted the American Indian community to be included. It is a 5-day event and Sherry is responsible for securing performers for the stage in the Great Basin Gathering Area. A competition powwow is also planned as well as American Indian vendors.

2. Indian Health Board of Nevada Meeting, Reno, NV – September 2, 2010
3. American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Conference, Tulalip, WA – September 19-22, 2010
4. American Indian Day – September 24, 2010

5. Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Convention, Reno, NV – October 25-28, 2010
6. American Indian Achievement Awards, Carson City, NV – November 6, 2010
7. National Congress of American Indians Conference, Albuquerque, NM – November 14-19, 2010

VII. STEWART

A. Discussion on Vandalism of Building #1 and Possible Strategies to Deter Vandals

Vandalism occurred on Building #1 (Stewart Indian Cultural Center) 3-4 weeks ago. Sherry happened to go by the office over the weekend and found Capitol Police with a couple of children and their parents. A POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) employee had witnessed the 2 boys throwing rocks through the windows of Building #1. By the time he was able to stop the boys they had broken 17 windows. A report was taken by the Capitol Police and will be submitted to the District Attorney's Office. Sherry suggested that the boys be given community service at Stewart so they could learn more about the history while they are cleaning up their mess. Buildings and Grounds is working on having the windows replaced.

The Stewart Advisory Committee met on July 17, 2010 and discussed this issue. The Chairwoman for the Stewart Community was present and Sherry asked if she could attend a Council meeting and work with the community on providing some information and history of the school to instill a sense of history and ownership (for Stewart) within the youth.

B. Update on Building Evaluation Report for Building #1 (Stewart Indian Cultural Center)

The Commission is in the first phase of the Building Evaluation Report and has received an initial draft. After reading the draft, it became apparent that additional work needed to be included in the report, historic preservation and museum requirements. This will require an additional phase (Phase 1B) to include these elements. Phase 1A final report will be presented next week and then we will move forward with Phase 1B. All grant funds are required to be spent out by March 31, 2011.

C. Update on Fundraising Efforts for the Stewart Indian Cultural Center

The NIC has raised approximately \$25,000 for the Stewart Indian Cultural Center through their letter campaign, the 2010 Stewart Father's Day Powwow and Alumni Reception. Other fundraisers are being planned for November 6, 2010 (American Indian Achievement Awards) and for Fall 2011.

D. Report on 2010 Stewart Father's Day Powwow

The 2010 Powwow had record attendance, 300 registered dancers (on Friday) and 35 vendors. The number of vendors decreased some this year, because of new and strict vendor guidelines, but the Powwow ended up with some very good and appreciative vendors. The feedback was that the Powwow was very well run and very organized. The Powwow was also the grand opening of a new Powwow exhibit developed by the Nevada Arts Council, Folklife Program. The Nevada State Museum also provided an exhibit from the Stewart Collection.

Commissioner Oliver commented that he was active in the Alumni building and that he observed that the number of alumni signing in had doubled from the previous year. He stated that the alumni were very pleased and that they really want to see the Cultural Center develop. Commissioner Oliver congratulated Sherry and Chris for their extra efforts. He also commented that the alumni want more activities and that incorporating the Alumni Reception the Thursday evening prior to the Powwow was very well received and very popular with over 100 in attendance.

Sherry agreed that the Alumni Reception was a great addition to the Powwow. The Courtyard Marriot hosted in their lobby and was very accommodating. A silent auction was held, Preserve Stewart buttons were sold and alumni were recognized at the event. Sherry added that half of the proceeds from the events will be transferred to the Stewart Indian Cultural Center gift account.

Commissioner Frederick confirmed that Stewart is on the National Register of Historic Places, but does not yet have National Landmark status.

Commissioner Oliver was able to speak with other alumni and hear their stories and he believes that these venues promote those types of discussions and finds them very beneficial. He further commented that developing a listing of alumni that have passed away would be a good project, but would be difficult to do.

Chairman Quasula thanked Sherry and Chris on doing an outstanding job.

A ten minute break was taken at this time.

VIII. EDUCATION

A. Brief Overview of NIC Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) Meetings and Activities

Pam Abercrombie briefly reported that the Committee has been meeting bi-monthly and discussed Nevada Race to the Top, People of the Lands curriculum, and sent a letter to UNR on the need to retain the Outreach and Retention Coordinator position.

B. Update on Current Indian Education Consultant Activities

Fredina reported on NRS 389.150 curriculum framework. She developed a Task Force to work on the curriculum in 2008, but really began their efforts in 2009. The Task Force meets frequently and is focused on curriculum for grades k-8. Curriculum for grades 9-12 will focus on federal Indian policy and will be worked on at a later date. They are focusing on the Nevada Tribes and are working with Tribes on content for the curriculum. A draft has been completed and they are waiting on content from the Tribes.

Pam Abercrombie stated that she felt this curriculum was long overdue and that this is something that is needed in the schools. They are also developing information for the website that teachers can access. Pam is going to volunteer her time in October to work on this piece.

Joe Bryan commented that our kids don't know their culture and need to be taught.

Fredina commented that most states have something similar in place, and Nevada is trying to catch up.

Fredina reported that the American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit will take place March 21-22nd in Reno at the UNR Joe Crowley Student Union. The primary focus of this year's Summit will be curriculum. Sessions may include parent involvement, higher education, curriculum framework (process), and boarding schools. The Summit Planning Committee will meet again in September. Finally, she reported that Nevada did not receive Race to the Top.

Commissioner Oliver asked if the other Tribes were working on submissions for her framework. Fredina said all of the other Tribes were sent a request and are probably working on their submissions. She doesn't want to leave anyone out, so for those Tribes that do not submit anything she will research and write the narrative and submit to them for their approval. These will be the last items she will work on.

C. Recruitment for University of Nevada, Reno Inter-Tribal Higher Education Outreach and Retention Coordinator

The Center for Student Cultural Diversity advertised the Coordinator position as a 50% position. Sherry and members of the NIC's Education Advisory Committee met with Shannon Ellis, VP for Student Services, Fabienne McPhail Naples, AVP Student Opportunities and Success Services and Reginald Chhen Stewart, Director, Center for Student Cultural Diversity to discuss the importance of the position and the importance of sustaining the position as full time. The representatives cited budget cuts as the reason for reducing the position and were very interested in identifying supplemental funding to bring the

position back to full-time status. Shannon Ellis stated that the Coordinator position would be 50% and the Graduation Assistant would continue at 50% time, making one whole position.

Sherry and Fredina both are on the Search Committee for the position and received 57 applications. Subsequently, Sherry received an email from Mr. Stewart that he received permission to fill the position at an 80% appointment for one year.

Fredina reported that she was told that Mr. Stewart appointed Michelle McCauley to the position.

Pam questioned if Mr. Stewart was able to turn the position into an 80% position (from 50%) because it was now an appointment. She also questioned if the American Indian intern was still providing 20 hours per week. Sherry answered that the graduate assistant has also recently resigned.

Fredina commented that there is not room in the Center for a person and that it is difficult as a part-time person to meet with the students as their schedules are hectic and may conflict with the part-time schedule as it did with hers when she was in the position temporarily.

Sherry commented that she believes that it is important to have a stable full-time person in the Center for the students. This model has worked and the retention rate for American Indian students jumped up to approximately 86% which was higher than any other minority group at the University.

Pam commented that she believes the University is also aware of this and could be the reason they did not abolish the position in its entirety.

IX. Discussion on Planning for American Indian Achievement Awards, Carson City, NV – November 6, 2010

The banquet will take place in the Nevada Room at the Governor's Mansion on Saturday, November 6, 2010 beginning at 6pm. The banquet is honor of American Indians in Nevada and their outstanding achievements in four categories (American Indian Community Leader of the Year, American Indian Youth Services/Role Model of the Year, American Indian Youth Ambassador of the Year and Contributor/Supporter of the Year) and in honor of Native American Heritage month. All proceeds from the event are to benefit the Stewart Indian Cultural Center. Tickets and tables are being sold and a silent auction will be held. Instead of entertainment, a panel of alumni will educate prospective donors on why their donation is needed and where their donations will be invested. Sherry suggested that the Commissioners purchase a table.

Chairman Quasula stated that he believes this is a great idea and fully supports the effort. He requested Sherry forward information on the banquet so the Commissioners can begin identifying support for the event.

X. Update on a Tribal Appointment to the Homeland Security Commission

Sherry reported that she had received an email from the President of the Inter-Tribal Emergency Response Commission (ITERC) inquiring of the status of this appointment as he had forwarded his application to the Chairman of the Homeland Security Commission, Dr. Carrison. Sherry spoke with Larry Casey of the Homeland Security Commission and he checked with the Governor's Office on the status. The Governor's Office had not received the application. Mr. Casey asked that a copy of the application be forwarded to him so he could make sure the application would make it through the correct channels. Sherry emailed the request to the ITERC President, but hasn't heard back from him. She did speak with the Mr. Matles of the Indian Health Board of Nevada and he said the group would be attending training in Las Vegas and they were planning to meet with Dr. Carrison on the matter.

XI. *Discussion on Legislative Training and Tribal Day at the Legislature

Sherry reported that the next Legislative Session begins in February and that she has scheduled a date with the Legislative Counsel Bureau to provide Legislative Training to the Nevada tribal governments. The Tribes have

also mentioned that they want to know more about the budget process. So, Sherry will try and schedule someone from the Budget Division to discuss that topic. The training will take place in January 2011.

Sherry has spoken with her counterpart in Arizona in regard to the tribes' day at the Arizona Legislature. The Nevada Tribes Day at the Legislature will be similar.

XII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Chairman Quasula asked the Commissioners to forward any requests for agenda items to Sherry.

XIII. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Meeting

The next Nevada Indian Commission Board meeting will be scheduled to coincide with the Tribal Legislative Training Day in January.

XIV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

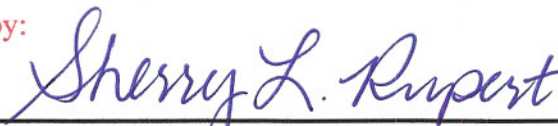
XV. Adjournment

Commissioner Frederick motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (2 absent). Meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that these Meeting Minutes were approved at a meeting of the Nevada Indian Commission with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions, 0 absent, at a meeting duly held on January 14, 2011.

Certified by:



Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Nevada Indian Commission